The weights of different items in the consumption basket were determined on the basis of a comprehensive Family Income and Expenditure Survey. The relative weights of major consumption items in the present series are given below:

Consumption Items	Weightage
(*i*) Food	57.00
(*ii*) Pan, Supari, Tobacco & intoxicants . . .	3.15
(*iii*) Fuel & lights . . .	6.28
(*iv*) Housing	8.67
(*v*) Clothing, Bedding & Footwear	8.54
(*vi*) Miscellaneous (Medical-care, Education, Recreation, Transport, Personal Care Service etc.) . . .	16.36
TOTAL .	100.00

Amendment in the Bonded Labour Abolition Act

1341. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, to provide a distinction between "adult" and "Child" bonded labour and to provide for more rigorous punishment for exploiting child bonded labour, especially the girl-child in bondage; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

Working Conditions of Child Workers

1342. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused any study into the working conditions of child-workers in the fire-works and match factories of Sivakasi, glass and glass bangles factories of Farozabad and carpet factories of Mirzapur, Badhoi and Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban the exploitation and abuse of child-labour in these factories, declaring the work therein as hazardous, to bar such child labour under Article 24 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Various studies have been undertaken, the latest being research studies sponsored by the Planning Commission on "Child Labour in Match Industries, Sivakasi", "Child Labour in Carpet Industry, Mirzapur" and "Child Labour in Glass Industry, Ferozabad".

The studies have confirmed prevalence of child labour, analysed the socio-economic factors leading to child labour and have highlight the health hazards. That have also pointed out the need for effective socio-legal interventions for prevention of employment of children, for ameliorating their living and working conditions. Further, they have emphasised the role of compulsory primary education, in eliminating child labour.

(c) Employment of children below 14 years in any factory is prohibited under the Factories Act, 1948. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes mentioned in the Schedule to the Act which include the processes of "Carpet weaving" and "manufacture of

matches, explosives and firework". Government have issued a preliminary notification on 5-10-93, for addition of further occupations and processes to the Schedule including, inter alia, the "glass industry".

Legislation for Welfare of Agriculture Workers

1343. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate suitable legislation for the welfare of the millions of agriculture workers in the country in view of the recommendations of the National Commission for Rural Labour ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The detailed proposals regarding enactment of a Central legislation for the welfare of Agricultural Workers have not been finalised so far.

Wage Board for Journalists and other News paper Employees

1344. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the constitution of Wage Boards for journalists and other newspaper and news agency employees ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The matter regarding constitution of Wage Boards for Journalists and other Newspaper and News agency employees is under consideration of the Government.

Villages Electrified under Integrated Rural Energy Programme

1345. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total outlay on the Integrated Rural Energy Programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan with State-wise break up, number of blocks covered ; and

(b) the total proposed outlay for the programme under the Eighth Five Year Plan with targets in terms of power generation, additional number of villages to be electrified and additional population to be covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) Under the Central Sector IREP Scheme amount released during the Seventh Five Year Plan was Rs. 6.05 crores as against approved outlay of Rs. 5.91 crores. This amount was utilised as grants-in-aid to States/UTs for setting of IREP cells at the State level in the selected blocks, as well as for training and R&D activities. The total number of blocks covered in all States/UTs in the Country by the end of Seventh Plan (1989-90) was 205 (The State-wise break up of blocks is enclosed as statement). (*See* below). In the Eighth Plan, a provision of Rs. 500 crores has been made for the minimum domestic energy needs of the economically weaker sections in the IREP blocks. A separate provision of Rs. 250 crores has been made for development capabilities for the planning and implementation of Integrated Rural Energy Programme in States and UTs. The Village Electrification Programme is a part of the State Plan and is not taken up separately under centrally sponsored scheme of IREP.